



## SKETCH

### Group Exhibition

**Garry Barker (First prize winner)**

*A competition and touring exhibition SKETCH, aims to promote the diversity and importance of drawing and the role of the sketchbook in contemporary creative practice.*

SKETCH is the UK's only art prize for artist's sketchbooks with a dedicated touring sketchbook exhibition.

This competition is only held once every four years and as first prize winner there should be an opportunity to hold a solo exhibition alongside the launch of the next exhibition in 2021.

Sketchbooks are an integral part of my practice, both as a way of collecting observational information as I walk the streets and have conversations with people, and as a way of developing ideas back in the studio for allegorical drawings, installations and ceramics.

The winning of first prize meant that I had the opportunity to open my work out into new material territories.

### Exhibition

**SKETCH**, Rabley Drawing Centre, Marlborough. 21 May - 15 December 2017.

## SKETCH 2017: Rabley Drawing Centre

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### SKETCH OPEN 2017 - Sketchbook Drawing Prize

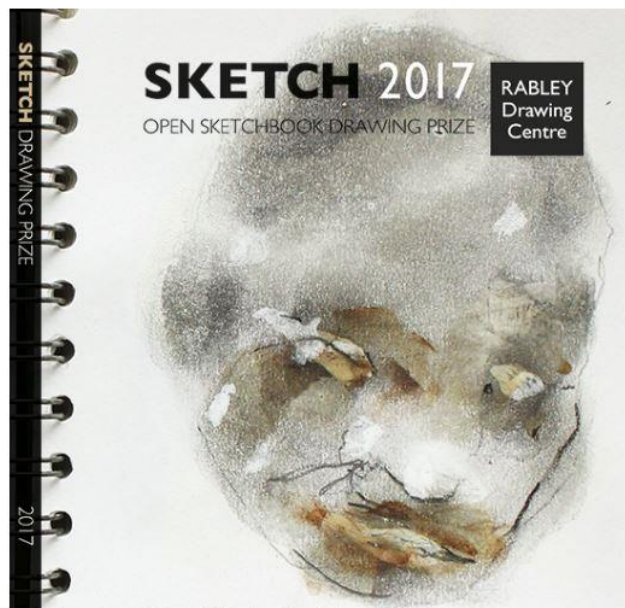


image above: Barbara Sykes' sketchbook on the catalogue cover.

100 artists' sketchbooks were selected from over 500 international submissions for the SKETCH 2017 competition and touring exhibition. We are delighted to announce the following prizes:

#### PRIZES

- Garry Barker  
SKETCH 2017 Derwent Prize –FIRST
- Lesley Hicks  
SKETCH 2017 Derwent Prize –SECOND
- Benat Ollaberria  
SKETCH 2017 Derwent Prize –STUDENT
- Tom Cartmill  
SKETCH 2017 Rabley Print Edition Prize
- Tracy Himsworth  
SKETCH 2017 Black Swan Arts Solo Exhibition Prize

We would like to thank our panel of Judges - Tom Hammick, painter and printer; Peter Randell-Page RA, sculptor; Gill Saunders, Senior Curator (Prints), Word & Image Dept, V&A Museum; our generous sponsors and all the artists who submitted this year.

Follow our blog for more information and SKETCH archives.

[SKETCH on our Blog](#)

see also:

[SKETCH 2013](#)

[SKETCH 2011](#)

SUPPORTED BY:

[PARKER HARRIS](#)



#### TOURING VENUES

21 May – 17 June 2017  
**Rabley Drawing Centre**  
Rabley Barn  
Marlborough, SN8 2LW

22 July – 3 September 2017  
**Black Swan Arts, Frome**  
2 Bridge Street  
Frome, BA11 1BB

9 September – 6 October 2017  
**Plymouth College of Art**  
Tavistock Place  
Plymouth PL4 8AT

20 November – 15 December 2017  
**Peter Scott Gallery**  
Lancaster Arts  
Great Hall Complex  
Lancaster University LA1 4YW

## INTRODUCTION

SKETCH aims to promote the diversity and importance of drawing and the role of the sketchbook in contemporary creative practice. This exhibition is not intended to be a survey of the sketchbook, but to generate creative impetus and provide a forum for debate. The sketchbook is a place for impossible experiments alongside the ordinary and the observed. Viewing them can be a journey through the most intimate studio space of the artist.

The 'in'between and 'edge' that hold our attention within a sketchbook can be sought in the space between the pages. The artist constructs a drawing where the viewer's mind or interpretation is stimulated by the undefined, incomplete or investigative. We are excited by the possibilities of what might happen next and the resolution of a problem through the realising of an image, the play of materials and gathering of thoughts.

Sometimes it is the uncommon viewpoint that draws us in. In Lesley Hicks' Sketchbook we are introduced not to a beautiful vista, but to the corner, the alley, the water tank! Each of the double pages has the immediacy and urgency of the pleasure of discovery for the artists' own sake.

Richard Eastwood's sketchbook 'Arcadia and Equilibrium II' looks back to look forward. The fluid figures of Nicolas Poussin (1594 - 1665), 'A Dance to the Music of Time' inspired by visits to the Wallace Collection, London are the starting point for the jumbling of composition and the abstraction of motif into sequences of marks, or the building of materials and surface.

Andy Black's 'Index' sketchbook collates icons and shapes, throwing them directly into the illusion of 3D by the stark graphic qualities of the ink on paper and the

shadows casting each element into relief. Sometimes the monochrome hides our attention within its limits. Benoit Clabberia explores with great maturity the edge and the space between forms in abstract compositions that are bold and sensual. Tom Cartmill renders tides of lines waving over the paper confusing the surface plane, or picks and plucks at the fibres delineating strong, geometric shapes.

A Dante's underworld-like colony of Figures tumble and Fall From rocks, imagined platforms and through holes in the large sketchbook by Carry Barker. The smaller sketchbook reveals the artist's draughtsmanship in the beautiful lines of pen and wash topographic studies, with panoramas and tall trees spread across the pages. Anne Desmet RA similarly makes studies of landscape, cityscapes. This sketchbook is a visual diary that offers a window onto the artist's life with small portrait sketches of Anthony Eyton, Philip King, Grayson Perry and Ian McKeever, casually sketched onto the 'Royal Academy General Assembly Agenda', and pasted into the pages.

In David Willet's 'Southwell Minster' sketchbook night and twilight allude to an atmospheric stillness. The interiors have the scale of cathedral spaces. The exterior studies load the pages with eerie solitude. This sketchbook is a painterly exploration that allows one to truly hold a sense of space in the palm of the hand whilst retaining an experimental and exploratory attitude. Anne Kristin Hagesaether evokes Norway's silhouetted pine trees and twigs of nature. The pages are stenciled and layered in a casual sketchbook journey that looks out and into her homeland landscape.

Boats and planes, sunsets and fairground lights are drawn with a free and confident hand in Sadie Tierney's sketchbook. A Boeing 747 with personality!

Meryí Ainslie, Director, Rabley Drawing Centre

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Pages from the SKETCH 2017 exhibition catalogue